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Patent

GR-32

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Alfred Glanzmann
Serial No: 09/579,901
U.S. Filed: May 26, 2000
For: TRANSPORT DISC FOR AN OPENING DEVICE OF A PRINTED
SHEET FEEDER
Examiner: Patrick Mackey
Art Unit: 3651

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION OF BRIEF ON APPEAL

SIR:

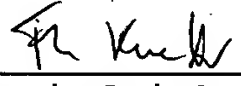
Submitted herewith is a Brief On Appeal in triplicate in support of the appeal filed January 20, 2004.

A check in the amount of \$330.00 to cover the fee pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17 (f) is enclosed.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

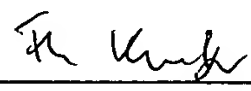
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 22, 2004
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By:  Date: March 22, 2004
Friedrich Kueffner



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BRIEF ON APPEAL

S I R:

This brief is submitted in support of the Appeal filed January 20, 2004 from the Examiner's Final Rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6 - 8, 12 and 15 - 17 as set forth in the Office Action dated December 11, 2003.

03/26/2004 MAHME1 00000078 09579901

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REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The present application is owned by GRAPH-A-Holding AG by virtue of an Assignment recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 21, 2000 under reel/frame: 011068/0171.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no presently pending related appeals and interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 - 8, 12 and 15 - 17 are the claims in the application and are the claims on appeal.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An amendment in response to the Examiner's Final Rejection of the claims was not filed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a transport disc for an

opening device of a printed sheet feeder, wherein the transport disc is configured to be arranged on a first opening drum of the opening device.

As illustrated in the drawing and described in the specification, the transport disc 14 includes at least one outer elastic support 16 which is configured to cooperate with a securing disc 29 of a second opening drum B, C of the opening device to clamp an individual printed sheet 1 between the outer elastic support 16 and the securing disc 29 for transporting the individual printed sheet 1 to a transport device 4.

In accordance with the present invention, the outer elastic support 16 is a rubber-elastic segment body 32 extending in a circumferential direction of the transport disc 14. The rubber-elastic segment body 32 is comprised of an outer bearing layer 20 and a compensation area 21 positioned radially inwardly underneath the outer bearing layer 20, wherein the compensation area 21 is radially yielding and supports the outer bearing layer 20. The compensation area 21 is more elastic in the radial direction than the outer bearing layer 21, wherein the compensation area 21 has a plurality of stays 22, 22', 22'', 22''' each having a first end connected to the outer bearing layer 20 and each having a second end positioned radially inwardly of the respective first end. The

stays are formed as ledges or lamellas, and the stays are positioned at a slant relative to a radial line extending in a radial direction from the first end to a center of the transport disc, respectively. (See especially the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 of the Specification).

In accordance with claim 3, the compensation area 21 has a radial compression area having a radial thickness matching at least substantially a radial thickness of the outer bearing layer 20.

In accordance with claim 4, the transport disc 14 further comprises a disc body 15, wherein the outer elastic support 16 further comprises an inner layer 24 positioned radially inwardly of the compensation area 21, wherein the inner layer 24 comprises means for fastening the outer elastic support 16 to the disc body 15.

In accordance with claim 6, the rubber-elastic segment body 32 is made of polyurethane.

In accordance with claim 7, the polyurethane is castable.

In accordance with claim 8, the transport disc 16 further comprises a disc body 15, wherein the rubber-elastic segment body

32 is configured to be fixedly connected to the disc body 15.

In accordance with claim 12, the outer elastic support 16 is made of a rubber-elastic plastic material.

In accordance with claim 15, the transport disc 14 further comprises a disc body 15, wherein the outer elastic support 16 is configured to be detachably connected to the disc body 15.

In accordance with claim 16, the outer elastic support 16 is connected to the disc body 15 by screws.

In accordance with claim 17, the printed sheet feeder 27 is a gather-stitcher feeder and the transport disc 14 is fixedly connected to a shaft 8 of the first opening drum.

ISSUES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

Whether claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 12 and 15 - 17 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nelson et al in view of Koren (EP 00663363A1), and whether claims 6 and 7 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nelson et al in view of Koren, and further in view of Tebbe et al.

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

The dependent claims of the application stand or fall with claim 1.

ARGUMENT

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nelson et al in view of Koren is in error because the references do not show the present invention as claimed.

Specifically, the combination of references does not teach or suggest a transport disc having the unique combination of features recited in the claims. Namely, the combination of references does not teach a transport disc configured to be arranged on a first opening drum of the opening device, wherein the transport disc comprises at least one outer elastic support. The outer elastic support is configured to cooperate with a securing disc of a second opening drum of the opening device to clamp an individual printed sheet between the outer elastic support and the securing disc for transporting the individual printed sheet to a transport device. The outer elastic support is a rubber-elastic segment body extending in a circumferential direction of the transport disc. The

rubber-elastic segment body is comprised of an outer bearing layer and a compensation area positioned radially inwardly underneath the outer bearing layer. The compensation area is radially yielding and supports the outer bearing layer and is more elastic in the radial direction than the outer bearing layer. The compensation area has a plurality of stays each having a first end connected to the outer bearing layer and each having a second end positioned radially inwardly of the respective first end. The stays are formed as ledges or lamellas and are positioned at a slant to a radial line extending in a radial direction from the first end to a center of the transport disc, respectively. A transport disc having this unique arrangement of features is not taught by the cited references.

The reference to Nelson et al. is directed to an opening device for a printed sheet feeder for feeding sheets to a saddle-like conveying device 32, as shown in Fig. 4. The opening device consists essentially of two conveying disks 29, 30, wherein the conveying disk 30 has on a circumferential portion thereof sponge rubber strips 30c which clamp the printed sheets between the conveying disks 29, 30. An opening device of this type is discussed in the description of the prior art of the present application. The disadvantages of this known device are also discussed in the application.

In the last line on page 3 and the first two lines on page 4 of the office action dated September 7, 2001, the Examiner listed the features which are not disclosed by the reference to Nelson et al.

It is the position of the Examiner that the features not shown by the reference to Nelson et al. are disclosed by the reference to Koren.

However, the reference to Koren is directed to a lamella ring, particularly for width adjusting rollers for adjusting the width of web-like materials, such as paper, textile or foil webs. For this purpose, a plurality of lamella rings 2 are mounted in a row in the direction of the roller axis on the core 1 of the roller, wherein these lamella rings 2 are arranged symmetrically on both sides of a plane extending perpendicularly of the axis of rotation of the roller core. By applying a radial pressure, which is produced by a tension of the material web traveling over the width adjusting roller, the outer circumference of the roller is displaced axially and symmetrically relative to the perpendicular plane and, thus, produces a lateral stretching of the material web. Provided as an outer supporting layer is a flexible hose 3 having an inwardly directed profiling which secures the hose 3 in its position.

Consequently, the only thing the roller of the reference to Koren and the transport disk according to the present invention have in common is that a radial pressure is applied. Because the roller of the reference and the transport disk according to the present invention are structurally different, the effects of the radial pressure application are different and serve different purposes. As a result of forces generated transversely of the axis of rotation of the roller of the reference to Koren, a stretching effect is achieved which is directed over the width of a material web; on the other hand, in accordance with the present invention, a radial reaction force is achieved for clamping individual printed sheets between two opening drums B and C.

Accordingly, it is submitted that a combination of the references to Nelson et al. and Koren clearly will not result in the disk according to the present invention as it is claimed in the present application.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable over the references relied on by the Examiner and the Board is respectfully requested to reverse the decision of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 22, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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By: *FK Kueffner*
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: March 22, 2004

APPENDIX

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. A transport disc for an opening device of a printed sheet feeder, the transport disc configured to be arranged on a first opening drum of the opening device, the transport disc comprising:

at least one outer elastic support, wherein the outer elastic support is configured to cooperate with a securing disc of a second opening drum of the opening device to clamp an individual printed sheet between the outer elastic support and the securing disc for transporting the individual printed sheet to a transport device,

wherein the outer elastic support is a rubber-elastic segment body extending in a circumferential direction of the transport disc, and

wherein the rubber-elastic segment body is comprised of an outer bearing layer and a compensation area positioned radially inwardly underneath the outer bearing layer, wherein the compensation area is radially yielding and supports the outer bearing layer, the compensation area being more elastic in the radial direction than the outer bearing layer, the compensation area having a plurality of stays each having a first end connected to the outer bearing layer and each having a second end positioned

radially inwardly of the respective first end, the stays being formed as ledges or lamellas, the stays being positioned at a slant to a radial line extending in a radial direction from the first end to a center of the transport disc, respectively.

3. The transport disc according to claim 1, wherein the compensation area has a radial compression area having a radial thickness matching at least substantially a radial thickness of the outer bearing layer.

4. The transport disc according to claim 3, further comprising a disc body, wherein the outer elastic support further comprises an inner layer positioned radially inwardly of the compensation area, wherein the inner layer comprises means for fastening the outer elastic support to the disc body.

6. The transport disc according to claim 1, wherein the rubber-elastic segment body is made of polyurethane.

7. The transport disc according to claim 6, wherein the polyurethane is castable.

8. The transport disc according to claim 1, further comprising a disc body, wherein the rubber-elastic segment body is configured to be fixedly connected to the disc body.

12. The transport disc according to claim 1, wherein the outer elastic support is made of a rubber-elastic plastic material.

15. The transport disc according to claim 1, further comprising a disc body, wherein the outer elastic support is configured to be detachably connected to the disc body.

16. The transport disc according to claim 15, wherein the outer elastic support is connected to the disc body by screws.

17. The transport disc according to claim 1, wherein the printed sheet feeder is a gather-stitcher feeder and the transport disc is connected to a shaft of the first opening drum.